



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER BENJAMIN HUESO**

### **10 YEARS OF BLIGHT - *F Street Skeleton To Be Demolished***

Date: June 17, 2008

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**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 12 p.m.

**WHAT:**

**By court order the long-abandoned property at 816 24<sup>th</sup> Street, known as the “F Street Skeleton,” will finally be demolished. After ten years and literally hundreds of complaints the City will hold the owners accountable.**

The residents of Golden Hill have complained through the administrations of three successive City Councilmembers about this nuisance property. How did this happen? Initially, the City’s current *Vacant Properties Program* could not address the problem the *F Street Skeleton* posed in Golden Hill. The owners avoided prosecution through a loophole in the law. Year after year the owners pulled permits claiming to remodel their property, but did nothing. Once a permit was pulled, the City lost its ability to prosecute. However, the courts have now ordered the owners to demolish this nuisance property by the end of this week.

Along with these perennial remodels, the residents of San Diego are increasingly burdened by vacant and abandoned properties due to foreclosures. Too often as owners abandon their homes banks are allowing trash and weeds to accumulate and broken windows and graffiti mar the façade of a home. These homes become a nuisance to the neighborhood and often attract criminal activity.

Councilmember Ben Hueso will be working on measures to hold property owners more accountable for their vacant and abandoned properties. As Chair of Land Use and Housing, he will bring forward a Perennial Remodel ordinance to avoid situations like those created by the *F Street Skeleton*. Also as a member of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, Councilmember Hueso is working with the Neighborhood Code Compliance Department to strengthen the Vacant Properties Program in light of the foreclosure crisis.

**WHO:** Councilmember Ben Hueso and Councilmember Tony Young

**WHERE:** 816 24<sup>th</sup> Street San Diego, CA 92102